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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Continues Renovations with New Windows for a Zelenikovo Primary School

The American people, through the USAID Primary Education Project (PEP), are investing \$3 million in school renovations across Macedonia. The "Marko Cepenkov" Primary School in the municipality of Zelenikovo is one recipient of this assistance. Vele Gruevski, the Mayor of Zelenikovo, joined representatives of USAID and PEP as well as the principal, teachers and students of "Marko Cepenkov" School to celebrate the fitting of the new windows. This activity is one of 77 school renovations that have been carried out by the Primary Education Project so far. By 2011, over 120 schools will be renovated, which is nearly one-third of the primary schools in Macedonia

"By renovating this school, we have not only created a better learning environment, but we also created a child-friendly, safe environment for the students. And, something the mayor and director will appreciate, is that the renovations will also provide energy savings, which will result in extra money that can be used for other educational priorities" said Lela Jakovlevska, USAID Senior Education Project Specialist.

The renovation component of the Primary Education Project supports the creation of better learning environments and decentralization of the responsibility for school facilities to municipal governments. The project also works to increase access to and use of information technology and to improve the quality of math and science education in Macedonian primary schools.

The Primary Education Project, implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), works with all public primary schools in Macedonia. The project seeks to improve the quality of instruction and increase students' employment skills. The overall goal of the USAID Education Program is to strengthen education in Macedonia and to support decentralization efforts, as Macedonia seeks entrance to the European Union.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.